

Preface

This publication presents information on the number of persons who received Social Security benefits under the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program, and the amount and type of monthly benefits they received in each State and county for December 1995. Included are beneficiaries in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Data are also shown for American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands in tables 1 and 2.

The data are derived from the Master Beneficiary Record (MBR), the principal administrative file of Social Security beneficiaries. The Cross County File produced by the U.S. Postal Service was used to designate the beneficiary's State and county. The Cross County File, which specifies counties in terms of 9-digit ZIP Codes, provides a more accurate designation of counties in places where ZIP Code areas cross county boundaries than that which is available in the MBR.

The data presented include only persons whose benefits are currently payable. Those whose benefits were withheld are excluded. (Benefits are withheld primarily because a beneficiary has earnings in excess of the exempt amounts under the earnings test provision of the Social Security Act.)

Some Social Security beneficiaries have a representative payee—a person selected by the Social Security Administration to receive their monthly benefit when such action is in the beneficiary's best interest. About 4 percent of all adult beneficiaries and virtually all child beneficiaries under age 18 have representative payees. For most children, the representative payee is the parent with whom the child resides. For beneficiaries with representative payees, the State and county designations in this publication are those of the representative payee, not those of the beneficiary.

Five tables are included in this publication. Tables 1-3 show summary data by State. Tables 4 and 5 show data for each county. A more detailed description of the data included in each of the tables follows:

Table 1 shows the number of persons receiving retired-worker benefits and their spouses and children; the number receiving survivor benefits—widows, widowers, parents (grouped together) and children; and the number receiving disabled-worker benefits and their spouses and children. Also shown are the number of men and women aged 65 or older.

Table 2 shows the monthly benefit amounts payable to the same categories of beneficiaries. Benefits are shown in thousands of dollars.

Table 3 gives the population of each State and the percent of the State's population receiving Social Security benefits. Also shown is the number of persons aged 65 or older and the percent of that group receiving benefits. The population figures are 1994 estimates from the Bureau of the Census.

Tables 4 and 5 show State and county data for the same categories of beneficiaries as in tables 1 and 2.

A special procedure (controlled random rounding) has been used in the preparation of tables 4 and 5 to avoid disclosure of the reason for eligibility of small groups and the amount of benefits received. Under this procedure, county data on the number of persons shown in table 4 are changed according to the following formula:

- (1) If a number is divisible by 5 (ends in 0 or 5) then the numbers are not changed.
- (2) Otherwise the number is randomly rounded either to the next higher number divisible by 5 or the next lower number divisible by 5, in such a way that the expected error for each cell and row total is zero.
- (3) Subsequent to the rounding of numbers, the dollar amounts in table 5 are proportionately adjusted, upwards or downwards as appropriate.